



**COMISION PARA LA INVESTIGACION Y DEFENSA DE LAS
HORTALIZAS DE SINALOA**

<http://www.cidh.org.mx>

Culiacan Sin., Mexico, July 24, 2006

USDA, AMS, FVP, FPB
Standardization Section
Room 1661 - South, STOP 0240
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0240

Fax: (202) 720-8871

Email: FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov

Re: Greenhouse Tomato Standard (Docket Number FV-04-301)

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Confederacion de Asociaciones Agricolas del Estado de Sinaloa, (CAADES) on behalf of their members producing greenhouse tomatoes, appreciates the opportunity given to file our comments by e-mail delivery, regarding the proposal to ammend the USDA Greenhouse Tomato Standadr. An original signed letter will be sent by express delivery confirming our comments.

CAADES is a Mexican Confederation founded in 1936, located in the State of Sinaloa, in the West Coast of Mexico. It groups 10 different local associations representing 24,000 private gorwers, including those growing vegetable crops, such as greenhouse tomatoes, in the state of Sinaloa.

The following comments have been prepared to be filed by your office.

1). Size and consistent pack definitions reasonable.

CAADES supports the option to continue to use count size outside of the grade standard for market segments that prefer that particular nomenclature for their purchases. The members of CAADES also strongly agree for the uniform pack to have not more that 10 percent of the tomatoes to vary by over one-half inch.

2). Creation of separate tomatoes on the vine standard.

CAADES supports the creation of a separate standard for tomatoes on the vine (TOV) as proposed by the USDA. Comments regarding TOV will be filed by separate.





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3). Catface.

The proposed grade standard includes definitions regarding the scoring of catface as a defect. Current varieties and growing conditions used by CAADES members virtually do not produce tomatoes with catface. Nonetheless, CAADES supports the proposal of the USDA regarding catface.

4). Skin check definition.

CAADES supports the proposed standard for skin check. However, members of CAADES would like to ensure that “russetting” is included as part of the skin check defect. Russetting is a trade term to define the appearance of a type of scarring or growth crack that tends to be concentric to the stem scar. However, these imperfections do not reach the proposed definitions of either growth crack or scars. Nonetheless, they affect the marketability and value of the tomatoes themselves. CAADES would suggest that it might be appropriate to classify this type of defect as part of the skin check tolerance.

5). Moldy stems.

CAADES supports the inclusion of moldy stems as a defect. However, CAADES would like to see the application to greenhouse tomatoes of the same criteria defined in the market inspection handbook for tomatoes where a dot of mold is not scored but a big growth of mold that leaves behind a soft area after is wiped off the fruit by the inspector is considered moldy.

CAADES wishes to thank the effort and the work done by the staff of the USDA in developing a proposal to modernize the greenhouse tomato standard. Thanks for filing this comments.

Sincerely,

Mario Robles.
Manager. CAADES Vegetable Division

